



Gladstone Schools Employee Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 9 • May 20, 2014

Celebrations

John Wetten literacy carnival celebrates books

John Wetten's annual Literacy Carnival featured carnival games, face painting, and pizza, all in celebration of books.

The event raised funds in support of student programs through a book fair, a raffle, and a silent auction.

Children and parents had the opportunity to sign up for a library card and find out about book clubs and summer reading programs at the Gladstone Public library.

"Thanks to good event planning, the staff had as much fun as the kids," said Principal Wendy Wilson. "We had a blast with our students and their

GHS hosts day of service

Student leaders from Gladstone, North Marion, LaSalle, Mollalla, and Estacada high schools came together April 29 for their annual Tri-Valley League day of service.

The 75 student leaders baked dog biscuits for a local animal shelter, assembled baby blankets and first aid kits for low-income families, and packed sack lunches for a homeless shelter.

"Our community does so much to support our teams and our schools," said teacher Matt Misely. "The students loved this chance to pay it forward."

Budget adds days, staff and books, lowers fees

For the first time in six years, the Gladstone Schools budget is improving, with plans to add teachers, restore lost school days, lower fees, and purchase textbooks next year.

The changes were possible due to increasing enrollment, a change in the state's calculation of low-income students, and an \$860 per year increase in the state's weighted per-student funding from the prior biennium.

The district set budget priorities after gathering input from nearly 500 parents and district employees through focus groups and surveys.

The district will:

- Add 8+ full time teaching positions over the 2013-14 budget. (some were added mid-year in 2013-14)
- Reduce class size averages to 29 for elementary students and 32 for secondary students.
- Add 4 days to the school year, including 2 more student instruction days and 6 more hours for staff development.
- Purchase new math books for grades K-1, new English language arts materials for grades K-5, and some English materials for grades 6-12.
- Reduce student fees, including elimination of course fees at all schools.

Key calendar dates set for 2014-15

September 3: First day of school for grades K-9
 September 4: First day of school for grades 10, 11, 12
 October 10: No school day
 October 13: No school for students (teacher in-service)
 November 11: No school – Veteran's Day
 November 26 – 28: No school (Thanksgiving break)
 December 1: No school (teacher in-service)
 December 19 – January 2: Winter break
 January 19: Martin Luther King Jr. day – no school
 January 26: No school (teacher in-service)
 February 13: No school (furlough day)
 March 13: No school (teacher in-service)
 March 23-27: Spring Break
 April 24: No school (teacher in-service)
 May 25: Memorial Day holiday
 June 11: Last day for students
 June 11: Graduation for the Class of 2015
 June 12: Last day for teachers

Calendar

Last day for all students

June 6

Graduation at GHS

@ 7 p.m. on June 6

Report card work day

June 9

School Board Meeting

@ 6:30 p.m. June 11

Kraxberger kids study environment

Continuing a 34-year tradition, Gladstone sixth graders journeyed to the coast for a week of Outdoor School, joined by teachers and by teen counselors from GHS.

Funded in part by grants, the program taught students about anthropods, survival skills, environmental footprints, beaches & dunes, ponds, plants, sustainability, natural history, and environmental art.

"What they learned about sustainability is life changing," said Principal Nancy Bailey.

New preschool opens at GCCF

In April, Gladstone Teaching Preschool opened at the GCCF, serving children from the Head Start waiting list and preschoolers with special needs.

The Opal School at Portland Children's Museum and Clackamas ESD's early childhood program are partnering in the grant-funded effort.

The school hopes to share its inquiry-based learning strategies with schools across Oregon.

Board News & Employee News

From the May 14 Board meeting

Board Members present :

Kristin Eaton, Chair
Sharon Soliday, Vice Chair
Denise Browning
Rod Cole
Susan Cronin
Jay Schmidt
Bruce Wadsworth

The Board:

- Honored top graduates of the GHS Class of 2014:

Salutatorians: Trevor Browning, Kelsey Hathaway, and Alexandra Hoch

Valedictorians: Gabrielle Basham and Nick Zerzan

- Heard a staff report on some 2013-14 Board Goals.
- Approved a band/choir California trip for Spring 2015.
- Approved the Board meeting calendar for 2014-15.
- Approved Policy JF/JFA, JFC, JG, and JFCJ on Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student Conduct, Weapons in Schools, and Student Discipline.
- Approved Policy JECB on Admission of Nonresident Students and Policy HB4007 on Inter-district Transfers.
- Approved revisions to the GCCF Student Handbook.
- Approved a request for a reduction in teaching assignment, a request for an unpaid leave of absence, a retirement, and the hiring of a temporary, licensed employee.
- Heard a briefing on Gladstone High activities from student representative Lauren Hill.
- Heard the district's monthly financial report.
- Discussed the Insurance Agent of Record.
- Discussed 2014-15 student fees.
- Set the date for the Board's summer workshop.
- Discussed the OSBA Summer Board Conference.
- Determined the process to fill a vacancy on the Board.

Gladstone Education Foundation seeks donations for garage sale fundraiser

If spring cleaning led to the discovery that you have *too much stuff*, donate household items, clothing, sports gear, baby gear, books, furniture, and craft supplies, to the Gladstone Education Foundation garage sale.

To volunteer or to donate, call Corinne at 503-722-2284 or Kathy at 971-227-2655. All donations are tax-deductible, and all proceeds will benefit students in Gladstone Schools. The garage sale will take place at Gladstone High School on June 13, 14, and 15.

Thanks from our community

“Gladstone has the programs to help the serious student thrive and the student who needs extra help the opportunity to succeed.” — GHS parent

“I appreciate the communication between the district, teachers, and parents.” — GCCF parent

“The principal and teachers are involved with students and genuinely care about helping them.” — WLK parent

“There's a true feeling of family and community in our schools.” — JWE parent

“I'm grateful for the extra effort to deal with my child's unique needs.” — JWE parent

Save the date for Gladstone Education Foundation golf tournament fundraiser

Golfers, kick off your involvement in the Gladstone Cultural Festival at the golf tournament fundraiser organized by the Gladstone Education Foundation. All proceeds benefit Gladstone schools.

The tournament starts at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, August 1 at Stone Creek Golf Course. Participation is \$125 per golfer. Hole sponsorship is \$1000 and includes golfing for 4. To register your team, call Bill Kemnitzer at 503-522-2884 or email billkemnitzer@aol.com.

Staff at JWE, GCCF, and WLK invited to take survey on staff wellness program

Thanks to OEA grant funding, Gladstone District employees can now enjoy wellness program offerings at John Wetten, Kraxberger and the GCCF. A staff wellness program will be added at Gladstone High next year.

To help each school's Wellness Team develop a program that meets your needs, employees at these sites are invited to take an on-line survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSDhealth>

To provide input on your school's program, contact:

GCCF: Amy Marlia & Kristina Whitley

JWE: Greg Wendling & Nancy West

WLK: Kailey Dieker & Debbie Gorton